

## A NEW GENUS OF THE ORCHIDACEAE FROM THE NEW HEBRIDES

OAKES AMES

AMONG the orchids collected in the New Hebrides by Dr. R. Morrison in 1896 and by L. Cheeseman in 1930, there is a strikingly distinct species from Eromanga Island. I have been unable to refer it to any genus heretofore described. In general facies it suggests some of the species of the African genus *Acrolophia*, but is clearly differentiated by the very dissimilar means by which the pollen masses are attached to the viscid disc of the rostellum, by the absence of a well developed spur at the base of the labellum and by the aspect of the inflorescence.

For the opportunity of studying the material on which the following description is based I am indebted to the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**Trichochilus** Ames, gen. nov.  
 Divisio: *Acrotonae*; Tribus: *Kerosphaerinae*; Subtribus: *Poly-stachyaeae*. Sepala lateralia patentia, basi columnae pedi affixa. Sepalum dorsale liberum. Petala sepalis similia. Labellum cum pede columnae inarticulatum, basi contracta incumbens, dein erectum, trilobatum, in saccum vel calcar abbreviatum plus minusve globosum productum, antice in laminam plus minusve pilosam productum, prope basim laminae bicallosum; lobi laterales patentes. Discus labelli conspicue papillosus vel pilosus. Columna elongata, in pedem brevem producta. Anthera terminalis, bicellularis. Pollinia duo, globosa, stipitibus duobus distinctis affixa, glandula unica.—Herba terrestris. Folia equitantia, numerosa. Vernatio foliorum duplicativa. Species una adhuc nota, habitu *Acrolophiarum*.

**Trichochilus neo-ebudicus** Ames, sp. nov.  
 Radices valde incrassatae. Caules abbreviati, basibus foliorum omnino obtecti. Folia plus minusve equitantia, oblique erecta, longe triangularia, acuta, in sicco nervosa. Pedunculus elongatus gracilis, infra racemum paucibracteatus. Racemus laxus, plus minusve decemflorus. Flores membranacei, albidi, labello purpureo-tincto. Sepala lateralia oblongo-lanceolata, patentia. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala oblongo-lanceolata. Labellum trilobatum, toto disco per medium inaequaliter pilosum et papillosum, basi saccatum vel breviter calcaratum; lobi laterales oblongi,

obtusius; lobus medius anguste ovatus vel obovatus, obtusus, prope basim bicallosus callis papillosis, prope apicem crista pilosa ornatus. Columna elongata, incrassata, in pedem brevem producta. Pollinia duo, globosa.

Roots very stout, when dry about 5 mm. in diameter. Stem much abbreviated, about 1.5 cm. long, concealed by the equitant leaves. Leaves 1.5–4 cm. long,  $\pm$  8 mm. wide, duplicative, persistent, narrowly triangular, acute, about 6, ascending with the apices curving inward toward the base of the elongated peduncle, conspicuously many-nerved when dry. Peduncle wand-like, slender, about 2 mm. in diameter when dry, about 5 dm. long, provided with about 5 tubular acute bracts below the raceme. Bracts 1–1.5 cm. long. Raceme about 10-flowered, 4–10.5 cm. long, about 4 cm. in diameter. Flowers about 5 mm. apart, white transfused with mauve. Bracts of the raceme 4–5 mm. long, narrowly lanceolate, acute, spreading, much shorter than the pedicels, brownish when dry. Pedicels about 1 cm. long, very slender, obliquely ascending. Ovary about 3 mm. long, arcuate. Lateral sepals 12–15 mm. long, 2.5 mm. wide, oblong-lanceolate, obtuse or subacute, membranaceous, forming a blunt mentum, 5-nerved with the outer nerves less conspicuous than the three middle ones. Upper sepal similar, about 12 mm. long. Petals about 12 mm. long, 3–3.5 mm. wide, similar to the sepals. Labellum about 11.5 mm. long, conspicuously 3-lobed, sharply deflexed near the base, forming a basal abbreviated sac or spur 1 mm. deep; lateral lobes hardly 3 mm. long, 1 mm. wide, oblong, obtuse, membranaceous, 2–3-nerved, divaricate; middle lobe about 8 mm. long, 3.5 mm. wide at the middle, narrowly ovate, obtuse, pubescent along the middle, contracted at base into an abbreviated oblong claw, bicallose at base with the calli extending down the claw, somewhat thickened at the slightly convex apical portion where it is densely covered with hairs. Calli densely pubescent. Column about 5.5 mm. long, fleshy, dilated upwards, produced at base into a short flat foot and with the base of the adherent labellum forming the short blunt sac. Pollina 2, spherical, waxy, each pollen mass supported by a slender elongated stipe. Stipes of the pollinia widely separated on the orbicular viscid disc.

NEW HEBRIDES. *Eromanga*; Cooks Bay, *Morrison*, s. n., July 22, 1896 (type in Herb. Kew.; duplicate of type in Herb. Ames, no. 37776); tableland, *Morrison*, s. n., July 16 & 22, 1896; Ula-veri plateau, *Morrison*, s. n., July 16, 1896; without exact location, *Morrison*, s. n., July 17, 1896; tableland of volcanic ash, among grass, and also among bracken, and at edge of belts of brush, altitude 500–700 feet, August 4, 1930, *L. Cheeseman*, no. 59.

It is clear that this species belongs to the subtribe Polystachyeae. Vegetatively it resembles *Acrolophia tristis* Schltr. & Bolus and *A. lamellata* Schltr. & Bolus, but is separable from them in the structure of the pollinarium, in the much shorter leaves, and through the absence of a conspicuous spur at the base of the labellum.

In the specimens studied the leaves are closely appressed to the base of the slender peduncle and are nearly parallel with it. Whether or not the leaves elongate as the plant matures is a question that cannot now be answered.

ARNOLD ARBORETUM,  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY.